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| APPLICATION NO.  | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|--|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/718,802   | 11/24/2003  | David John Baughan   | 0446-0153           | 3470             |
| 2292   | 7590        | 08/04/2006           | EXAMINER            |                  |
| BIRCH STEWART KOLASCH & BIRCH<br>PO BOX 747<br>FALLS CHURCH, VA 22040-0747 |             |                      | BAUER, SCOTT ALLEN  |                  |
|  |             |                      | ART UNIT            | PAPER NUMBER     |
|  |             |                      | 2836                |                  |

DATE MAILED: 08/04/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/718,802

Applicant(s)

BAUGHAN, DAVID JOHN

Examiner

Scott Bauer

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 4-9, 14, 18 and 19 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 10-13, 15-17, & 20-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 19 July 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12/15/03.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_.

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Claim Objections***

1. Claims 4-9, 14, 18 & 19 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being in improper form because a multiple dependent claim cannot depend from a multiple dependant claim. See MPEP § 608.01(n). Accordingly, the claims have not been further treated on the merits.

Should Applicant amend the claims to overcome the objection, care should be taken to ensure that there is proper antecedent basis for each element in the claims.

2. Claim 2 recites the limitations "the switch control means" and "the first power outlet". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

3. Claims 21 & 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this

Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1, 2, 10, 15-17 & 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Morrow (US 5,541,457).

6. With regard to Claim 1, Morrow, in Figure 6, discloses an electrical power connector, said connector including a power inlet (13), a first power outlet (15A) coupled to said power inlet, at least one second power outlet (15B) which is coupled to said power inlet by switch means (17 & 35), and switch control means (20, 21 & 28-34) for controlling the state of the switch means in accordance with the average current supplied to the first power outlet (column 7 lines 38-43).

7. With regard to Claim 2, Morrow, in Figure 6, discloses an electrical power connector, wherein the switch control means includes current sensing means (20 & 21) for sensing AC current supplied to the first power outlet (15A).

8. With regard to Claim 10, Morrow discloses a method of controlling the supply of power to a plurality of electrical loads (auxiliary & tool), the method

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including the steps of monitoring the average current supplied to a first of said loads (tool), controlling switch means (17 & 35) coupled to the loads other than said first load in accordance with said monitored average current to thereby control supply of power to the loads other than said first load (column 7 lines 38-43).

9. With regard to Claims 15-17, Morrow, in Figures 4 & 5 discloses an electrical power connector having an electrical power outlet (15), and electrical circuitry connected to the outlet (36), the outlet being removably retained between two parts (10 & 11) of a casing of the connector which are releasably connected together, whereby, on release of the connection between the parts, the outlet is released to permit replacement thereof, wherein the parts of the casing, and the outlet, are formed so as that, when the outlet is retained between the parts of the casing, movement of the outlet inwardly and outwardly and rotationally with respect to the casing is prevented by engagement of peripheral protrusions (screw posts of casing 10) or other portions of the outlet with portions of the casing, and wherein one of said casing (10) parts carries the electrical circuitry, and the other (11) is arranged for mounting of the connector on a surface.

10. With regard to Claim 20, Marrow, in figure 5 discloses an electrical power connector having an electrical power inlet (14) and an electrical power outlet

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(15), and electrical circuitry (36) interconnecting these, the connector having a casing (10 & 11) being formed from two parts releasably connected together, one said part (10) carrying the electrical circuitry, and the other (11) being arranged for mounting of the connector on a surface.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

11. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

12. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Marrow as applied above to claim 1, in view of Stahl (US 5,388,021).

13. With regard to Claim 3, Marrow teaches the electrical power connector as claimed in claim 1.

Morrow does not teach that the circuit includes a circuit breaker which interrupts supply of electric power to the outlets when excess current is drawn.

Stahl, in Figure 9, teaches a voltage surge suppression power circuits wherein a power line is supplied with a circuit breaker (60) which interrupts supply of electric power to the outlets when excess current is drawn.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Morrow with Stahl, by including the breaker as taught by Stahl to the power lines of Marrow, for the purpose of protecting the loads of Morrow from common voltage and current faults associated with power lines.

14. Claims 11-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barton (US 6,528,902) in view of Singer et al. (US 6,118,270).

15. With regard to Claim 11, Barton discloses a method of controlling the supply of power to a plurality of electrical loads (main device & secondary devices), wherein the first load (main device) has an off or standby state.

Barton does not teach the step of controlling the switch means is adjusted so that the switch means is off when the first load is in the off or standby state.

Singer et al. teaches a current sensing device wherein an adjustment means (304 & 307) is coupled between a current sensor and a rectifier (305) and switch means (311) wherein the circuit is adjusted to control a voltage at which a switch turns on and off.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Barton with Singer et al. by replacing the current sensing circuit a Barton (R1, R2, D1 & Q1) with the current sensing circuit of Singer et al. (302 & 304-307), for the purpose of allowing the

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device to be used with a plurality of loads with a broad range of operating currents thus allowing the device to be more robust.

16. With regard to Claims 12 & 13, Barton in view of Singer et al. discloses the method of Claim 11. Barton further discloses that an off state is a state where no current is drawn by the first load and in the standby state, current drawn by the first load is substantially less than the current drawn when the first load is in an operative state (column 1 lines 50-55).

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Scott Bauer whose telephone number is 571-272-5986. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9am-6pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Sircus can be reached on 571-272-2058. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.



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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

SAB  
27 JUL 06



**CHAU N. NGUYEN**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**